

Islip, NY – Islip Town Supervisor Phil Nolan and Councilman Gene Parrington are happy to announce that the Suffolk Works Employment Program (SWEP) has been an enormous success within the Town. In fact, between January 1, 2009 and November 5, 2010, the Town received 43,036 labor hours from this program, saving taxpayers more than \$460,000 over the last two years.

The Suffolk Works Employment Program provides job training and employment opportunities to individuals who receive public assistance from the Suffolk County Department of Social Services. Although the Town and the County originally entered into a partnership for the SWEP in 2000, the Town passed a resolution in 2008 renewing the contract and setting guidelines establishing that each participant meet specific requirements, depending on which category of assistance they require from Social Services. Participants must follow a strict list of limitations and work rules that ensure they are placed in a job that is suitable to their experience and skill levels.

“We are pleased with the results of the SWEP program,” stated Supervisor Nolan. “It is truly a reflection of what can be accomplished when the County and the Town work together.”

“This program does not cost the taxpayer a cent, and it helps people bolster their work experience and get back on their feet,” stated Councilman Parrington. “It is a win-win for everyone involved.”

The Town of Islip offers applicants job readiness training and provides logistical support, such as transportation. SWEP workers are placed in jobs throughout the Town, typically with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.